

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PM-05
SP-02 PA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SY-05
/062 W

-----003538 071100Z /14

O 071048Z MAR 78 ZFF-4
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6853
AMEMBASSY BERN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 03514

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (ATHERTON, ALFRED L., JR)
SUBJECT: PROPOSED ATHERTON/PRINCE SAUD MEETING IN EUROPE

REF: (A) JIDDA 1721, (B) CAIRO 7209

1. AS THE MISSION PREVIOUSLY WAS UNAWARE OF PRESENCE OR WHEREABOUTS OF FOREIGN MINISTER SAUD IN SWITZERLAND, ON RECEIPT OF REF B MISSION RELAYED REFTELS TO EMBASSY BERN TO ASSURE PROMPT IN-COUNTRY COORDINATION AND MADE QUIET INQUIRIES THROUGH SWISS SECURITY SOURCES IN GENEVA, BUT WITHOUT RESULT. ON MORNING OF MARCH 7 EMBASSY BERN MANAGED TO CONTACT SAUD'S CHEF DU CABINET HASSAN SHAWWAF AT HOTEL MONT BLANC IN MEGEVE WHO UNDERTOOK TO GET BACK TO EITHER EMBASSY OR GENEVA MISSION BY EARLY AFTERNOON ABOUT PROPOSED MEETING, PREFERABLY ON MARCH 9, AND POSSIBILITY OF ARRANGING TRAVEL ACCORDINGLY.

2. MEANWHILE SAUDI AMBASSADOR IN GENEVA INFORMS US
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THAT SAUD PRESENTLY, AND POSSIBLY TENTATIVELY, PLANS TO DEPART GENEVA BY PRIVATE AIRCRAFT AT 1100 MARCH 7 ON DIRECT (SIX HOUR) FLIGHT TO RIYADH. SAUDI AMBASSADOR HIMSELF EXPECTS TO LEARN FURTHER ABOUT SAUD'S PLANS BY MID-DAY AND WILL APPRISE THE MISSION OF THESE.

3. ASSUMED ATHERTON MIGHT WISH THIS STATUS REPORT,

WHICH WILL BE FOLLOWED UP IMMEDIATELY ONCE MORE FIRM
INFORMATION AND REACTION CAN BE OBTAINED. SORENSON

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